

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /099 W

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R 040838Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8267

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH TARIFF

REF WARSAW 7036 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY:WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
TRADE OFFICIALS WHO CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING
POLAND'S PROPOSED TARIFF, THAT A FINAL DECISION TO INTRODUCE
THE MEASURE HAS NOT BEEN REACHED, ALTHOUGH APPROVAL IS
LIKELY. THE OFFICIALS AGREED THAT THE TARIFF IS PRIMARILY
INTENDED TO SERVE AS A BARGAINING INSTRUMENT IN SEEKING
IMPROVED ACCESS TO CERTAIN WESTERN MARKETS. THEY ARGUED,
HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE "EFFECTIVE", AND THAT IN THE
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MEDIUM TO LONG TERM IT SHOULD REDUCE THE ROLE OF CENTRAL

PLANNING. THE USE OF THE BRUSSELS NOMENCLATURE IS VIEWED AS AN IMPORTANT FRINGE BENEFIT IN THAT IT WILL BRING ABOUT PUBLICATION OF DATA WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN THE PAST, AND WILL MAKE POLISH ECONOMIC DATA, E.G., NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, MORE INTELLIGIBLE TO WESTERN ANALYSIS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES WITH WHOM WE SPOKE MADE NO EFFORT TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT THE TARIFF, IF ENACTED, IS TO BE FIRST AND FOREMOST A BARGAINING INSTRUMENT FOR USE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT PRESENTLY EXTEND MFN TO POLAND. WHEN ASKED HOW THEY PLAN TO RESPOND TO OBJECTIONS THAT THE TARIFF WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE, THE OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN MAKE A CONVINCING CASE, BUT DID NOT OFFER SPECIFIC ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION.

3. ACCORDING TO THESE OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE PLAYED PROMINENT ROLES IN POLAND'S ECONOMIC REFORM MOVEMENT, INTRODUCTION OF THE TARIFF WILL, OVER TIME, HELP LOOSEN THE CONTROL OF CENTRAL PLANNING OVER IMPORTS. THE PLAN, THEY ACKNOWLEDGED, REMAINS THE PREDOMINANT FORCE IN DETERMINING IMPORT LEVELS, BUT THE TARIFF SHOULD ULTIMATELY REPLACE THE PLAN IN THIS SPHERE, WHILE MAKING THE IMPORT PROCESS MORE "TRANSPARENT". IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY APPEARED TO ATTACHE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE BRUSSELS TARIFF NOMENCLATURE, WHICH THEY BELIEVE WILL BRING MORE INFORMATION ON THE POLISH ECONOMY INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FACILITATE COMPARISONS WITH WESTERN ECONOMIES.

4. WE HAVE NOT YET LEARNED HOW THE TARIFF WILL BE APPLIED TO IMPORTS FROM CEMA COUNTRIES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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